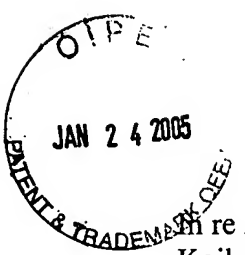


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of)	
Koike et al.)	Examiner: Ortiz, Edgardo
Serial No.: 10/760,022)	
Filing Date: October 26, 1998)	Art Unit: 2815
For: Semiconductor Devices and)	
Manufacturing Methods)	

RESPONSE TO ELECTION/RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sirs:

In response to the Election/Restriction Requirement in the Office Action dated December 16, 2004, the response being due by Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2005 (Jan. 17 was a federal holiday), please enter the following.

Applicant respectfully traverses the election/restriction requirement, Applicant notes that MPEP section 803 states "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." Applicant submits that the Examiner has not established that it would be an undue burden for the Examiner to examine all of the pending claims, and as a result, the requirement should be withdrawn.

If the election /restriction requirement is not withdrawn, then Applicant elects Species II, including the manufacturing method as illustrated in Fig. 4. It is believed that at least claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9, 11, and 17-18 read on Species II.

Alan S. Rye

Dated: January 18, 2005

tele general: (310) 556-7983
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facsimile: (310) 556-7984

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 18, 2005.

Alan S. Raynes Jan 18, 2005
Alan S. Raynes (Date)